



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street, Room 150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Date: April 12, 2006

Contact: Jason Barron, 513-352-5356 or 614-554-5952 (cell)

Mallory Promotes Expanding Summer Food Program Too many Cincinnati Youth are not taking advantage of free meals

Cincinnati – Mayor Mark Mallory announced today a new initiative to increase the number of Cincinnati youth who take advantage of the Free Summer Food Program. The initiative has three components: increasing the number of sites, encouraging increased usage of existing sites by summer youth programs, and increasing the usage of the sites by parents. The Mayor and the partners in the Summer Food Program announced the initiative at a morning press conference at Bush Recreation Center in Walnut Hills.

“Entirely too many of our young people do not have access to nutritionally balanced meals in the summer,” Mayor Mallory said. “Our current partners do a good job of providing meals, but we must find ways to increase the number meals that we serve. We do that by doing a better job of promoting the existing program and we also must expand the number of sites.”

The initiative attempts to increase the number of locations that free lunch is available by recruiting community organizations to partner with the Children’s Hunger Alliance and become a location that serves free lunches. The initiative also encourages community organizations to utilize the existing free lunch locations by taking the youth to the sites for lunch. Finally, the initiative aims to increase the public awareness of the availability of free lunches so that more parents and children will use the program.

“The city is expanding the number of city recreation centers and city pools that serve lunch. But the city cannot do it alone; we need the whole community to help find new places to expand the program,” Mayor Mallory said. “We are looking for community organizations that are already providing programs or activities for youth, but are not serving meals. If they join the program they can start serving lunch to their youth for free.”

According to Cincinnati Public Schools, over 66% of Cincinnati youth qualify for the Federal School Lunch and Breakfast Program. However, statewide, 92% of these students do not participate in the Summer Food Service Program. Community organizations interested in getting involved in the Summer Food Service Program should contact the Children’s Hunger Alliance at 614-341-7701 to get more details.

The initiative is a partnership between the Children’s Hunger Alliance, the Mayor’s Office, Cincinnati Public Schools, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, and community organizations, including the World Outreach Christian Church, the Salvation Army, and Victory Neighborhood Services.

###